

LIVING AND STUDYING IN JEFFERSON CITY



Our very own Frankenpost-employee Vanessa Schweinshaupt will live the next 9 weeks in JC. From there she will answer the questions of you readers.

We had been in JC with the family last year. We didn't know those people, but when we were there, it felt like knowing each other for years. That's so fantastic", Günter Schnabel told me, who visited the partner city of Münchberg one year ago. „You'll recognize how important the partnership is for the Americans. It's awesome.“ ... (some facts about JC following...)

His daughter Sandra told me that the Americans like to meet German people. Lots of them have German roots and so they will tell you about, and they will ask you about their ancestors.“

My little chat with the Schnabels now is more than half a year ago. I talked to them because I'd like to hear some personal impressions about our partner city. Throughout my work for Frankenpost I know a lot about JC, I wrote many articles about the politics over there, the partner

city-meetings, Christmas traditions and so on. But I never ever had been there. I decided that now was the time to go to JC and to make my own experiences. So, the invitation of former Mayor John Landwehr fitted right in time!

After the application for a summer school and my Universities permission to let me go to the US I wrote John Landwehr a mail. That was in last November.

I had to find a good course in Missouri on a College or University which has to last at least six weeks, has to be in summer and has to be graduate course. Graduate means the German „Master“.

A lot of mails and telephone calls later I received the letter of acceptance from Columbia College - Jefferson City, Missouri, in May. John was managing that. A friend of him is the director of the college and she also is a member of „Old Munichburg Association“.

The American educational system can be tricky if an officer from a foreign army likes to be part of it. I don't wanna talk about all the misunderstandings and problems I had, just let me tell you: Sometimes I had the feeling I better should give up. All the paperwork and the different educational systems plus the extraordinary situation of being a studying officer with very strict

requirements cost me tons of nerves and headaches! In the same time I had a double trimester (as an army member you have to study as twice fast as a normal student) which was very time intensive. I really became exasperated of all the official documents! I said to myself: „Keep your head up. You'd love to see your partner city and you'd love to meet all the great people over there. So go on, don't give up.“ And then there was John, too: my knight in shining armor smile emoticon;) He managed all the stuff in JC, with the College, with News Tribune, with my rental car and my accommodation. The next 9 weeks I will live with his family. Two days a week I'm going to study at Columbia College and two days a week I'm going to make a tiny winy internship at News Tribune. That's a fantastic newspaper in Missouri. Maybe some of you will remember, I already published one article together with one of the writers of News Tribune. It was about winning the partner city-award.

In my spare time I will practice with the „CoMo Derby Dames“, a roller derby team. That's important for me, I'm a derby girl and I have to practice to stay in shape for my own league in Munich. I also will play soccer over there. And I will take a lot of sports clothes with me, because in sports clubs it's very easy to make new friends. The encounters with the people over there are very important. I'm going to write a little series for Frankenpost, called „adventure abroad“. I will tell you about my adventures in JC and about the Jeff Citizens.

I came up with the idea because of Günter Schnabel. When he told me that he always knew about the partnership between Münchberg and JC but he never had been part of it before their trip to JC, I thought, I will change that. He was so right when he said: „It's a wonderful partnership. And being there meant so much to me and my family. All the habitants of Münchberg should know more about it. They should see it!“

So, my dear readers, I don't just want to talk about my adventures over there, I also like to hear what you like to read about JC: Which place do you like to see besides Google Maps in JC? Which stories are you interested in or which person you'd like to read about?

My journey will start on 14th of August. I don't know if there are answers to all the questions and topic-suggestions you have for me, but be sure: For my beloved Münchberg and its people I always do my best!

Some facts about Frankenpost-employee Vanessa:

My name is Vanessa Schweinshaupt. I'm 27 years old and I'm living in Neubiberg, a village in front of the doors of Bavarians main city Munich. My main resistance is in Münchberg, because my heart always will belong to the city I was born and raised in. For more than two years I have been working as a freelancer for the Newspaper „Frankenpost“. But my daily profession is another: I'm an officer (Lieutenant) in German Army. Nowadays I study Journalism at the University of Bundeswehr München. I'm in the last year of Graduation. People often ask me: „Studying Journalism at the Bundeswehr, that's possible?“ And I always respond: „With Bundeswehr nearly everything is possible.“ So, the next 9 weeks I will be in JC - for working, studying and also strolling around a bit from time to time wink emoticon;)